

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2012
TIMBER POINT GOLF COURSE
GREAT RIVER, NEW YORK**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Miles Borden	Chairman, Town of Smithtown
Dawn Hopkins	Vice Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

ABSENT

Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D.	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Babylon
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Islip
VACANT	Trustee, Town of Southold
VACANT	Member at Large

PARKS DEPARTMENT

Greg Dawson	Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Colleen Hofmeister	Principal Contracts Examiner
Richard Martin	Director of Historic Services
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

GUESTS

Tom Young	County Attorney's Office
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PUBLIC PORTION

There were not any members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2012

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Hopkins. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Dawson gave an update on the damage from Hurricane Sandy. We sustained major damage in just about every park in the system. The most costly damage is the erosion sustained at Cupsogue, Smith Point and Meschutt. At Smith Point and Cupsogue, there were three or four wash overs and one very substantial breach. DPW has been working with the Parks Department on restoration plans. The Commissioner asked Nick Gibbons to continue with some details.

Nick reported that we have an active breach at Smith Point that goes about two miles out into the park. The park is six miles long from the western boundary to Moriches Inlet. At about the two mile mark, there is an active breach that is in the vicinity of what once had been the old lifesaving station dating back one hundred years. A channel was dug there to service the station decades ago on the bayside and it has always been sensitive to erosion so it has been completely breached. There is a dredge within one hundred yards of this site. We had just started with the Forge River dredging and the sludge was being pumped up out of the Forge River and deposited in an old dredge spoil site on the back bay of the park. It is a huge dyke area of over twenty acres and was pre-existing. The forge sludge work had just been started and the dyke had to be pushed back up for the project. The storm came and did about one week's worth of damage to the dyke area. It was repaired and pumping has begun. DPW is now redeploying that dredge into the intra-coastal waterway. A dredge was dropped in there and pumping started up on the beach to close up the breach. The project at the Forge River will then resume. There are some other areas of the park that went undisturbed and look pretty good.

Further east, at Cupsogue we have a nearly 2 mile park. Just east of the Moriches Inlet is a very significant breach. At least one million cubic yards of material is necessary to stop it. Immediately east of the inlet, there is an island which is what had been the eastern side of Moriches Inlet. There is a span of 1,500 – 2,000 feet where there is no dune whatsoever and an active erosional process is happening there. We also have an active dredging project in the immediate vicinity of this site. It is a much smaller 30,000 cubic yard Army Corps project and was to be an intra-coastal dredging project. We will be meeting with the Army Corps about getting that project completed and then redeploying them to the breach site within the park. The outer beach row does not exist anymore in that area and the primary dune at the park is completely flat. The ocean came up and through the pine trees beyond the primary dune into Burma Road. When it receded, it left nothing but sand on top of the pines. What had been narrow, 10-12 foot wide dune crossovers where people could walk to go out to the ocean, there are now wide open pathways that trailer trucks could drive through. There is no beach at a high tide. The outer beach road is currently closed and we are working to clear the parking lot area for re-opening to the public. The pavilion area and handicapped ramp down to the beach were spared so we should re-open fairly soon.

Still further east, on the west side of Shinnecock Inlet we have about a three mile ocean front beach. There was a wash over immediately west of the inlet which deposited about seven feet of sand into Dune Road for about a ½ to ¾ mile distance. Dune Road is completely covered and DPW is actively picking up the sand and re-depositing it out on the ocean beach. The commercial fishing dock in that area is a major commercial facility and has great economic interest there, making it a big priority. We had a project also scheduled to begin there. This project is west of the Shinnecock Inlet (WOSI) and is a 250,000 cubic yard Army Corps project which will be redeployed and deposited where needed, primarily to protect Dune Road and the Fisherman's Co-op (the commercial fishing dock).

At Meschutt, we had just completed a very successful dune restoration project and it was completely erased by the storm. We finished a parking lot project there in the early spring and there was also some damage done there. There is no beach and right off the edge of the parking area is a sheer drop down. The dune and all of the walkways we constructed are gone. Under the deck of the Beach Hut there is no sand so we will make emergency repairs there with one thousand yards of sand. The patio and sitting area have been undermined and the park is presently closed. It is open to anyone who wishes to park at the marina and walk around.

At Indian Island, the point was battered but is salvageable. There are a countless number of trees to be addressed at all of the inland parks. Indian Island, Sears Bellows and Cedar Point are in need of much work. Trustee White inquired if we have the manpower for the cleanup. Commissioner Dawson reported that we will be receiving additional workers from the Labor Department to assist.

The outer beach at Montauk was cleaned up and it is currently open to the public. The smaller beaches at Goldsmith's Inlet in Southold, Peconic Dunes and Inlet Pond County Park all experienced erosion.

At Timber Point, the Blue course and signature hole, Gibraltar, were completely inundated creating major damage along the fairways.

The coastal areas were extensively damaged and the Parks Department, the state, the DEC, and the Army Corps are coordinating to get the repairs made. Trustee Sickles inquired if there was any damage to the lighthouse at Cedar Point and Nick reported that it was washed over but sustained very little damage.

Commissioner Dawson reported that in spite of the many downed trees in our parks, we were very lucky that our over two hundred historic structures suffered minimal damage. There was damage to the roof of the St. James General Store caused by trees, but very little damage otherwise.

The Commissioner reported that all of the county golf courses are operating fully with the exception of Timber Point, which has a modified nine. The Blue Course at Timber Point will be closed for the rest of the year. We won't know the extent of damage from the salt water intrusion on many of the fairways until the springtime. To help the grass from browning up, the Parks Department purchased an emergency shipment of gypsum which we have been applying to the worst hit areas.

Parks employees have been working non-stop to get our parks re-opened as quickly as possible. Sections of certain parks such as Blydenburgh and West Hills have been opening gradually and Emily Lauri has been updating the postings on our website. Trustee Sickles inquired if we have gotten power back yet at Smith Point. The Commissioner stated that we don't have power back yet and the park was closed for about two weeks with Park Police stationed at the bridge to keep people from crossing over. We were then able to close just the outer beach and open all the camp sites that would normally be open at this time of year. We fenced off the main pavilion walkway where the staircase was damaged, enabling the park to be open to the public.

The Commissioner noted that Gil Anderson and Bill Hillman (DPW), Nick and Terry have been working with regulatory agencies to get the breaches closed up.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Trustee Borden commented on the wide scope of damage that was sustained and the tremendous job it will be to clean up from it.

ROUND TABLE

Trustee Sickles commented that former Parks Trustee, Rich Hollborn from the Town of Babylon had over four feet of water in his house and sustained a great amount of damage. For those of us who didn't suffer that extent of damage, we are very fortunate.

Trustee Borden stated that FEMA has a large camp stationed at Sunken Meadow State Park and one of the workers here from Louisiana commented on the tremendous number of trees here on Long Island.

Board Member Terry Pearsall announced that Supervisor Petrone has re-nominated Alex McKay for reappointment to the Board. He said he is still working on the other three openings and thinking about amending a law that if a Supervisor doesn't make an appointment or recommendation within a three to six month period, the Presiding Officer of the Legislature could then name an individual to fill a vacancy. Trustee Borden approved of the idea. Colleen added that she recently spoke to former Islip Trustee, Jay Miller who served on the Board for many years and he indicated to her that he would be more than happy to come back if that was the wish of the Supervisor. Commissioner Dawson commented that Jay is on the Parks Foundation, lives locally and still remains very involved. Terry stated that it is very important that we fill those vacancies because of the number of members who can vote and count as a quorum.

The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2012 at Meadow Edge Golf Course, West Sayville, New York.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Hopkins. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 6-0-0.